



# COLLEGE *of* CHARLESTON

THE RILEY CENTER FOR  
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

## 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Broader and deeper engagement with our stakeholders is the focus of the Riley Center. Highlighted by the spring ribbon cutting ceremony, we officially welcomed all of our partners and stakeholders to our new West Edge facility on Lockwood Boulevard. We have already shared our facility with colleagues from MUSC and the Citadel, as well as countless community organizations, local government officials and students, staff and

faculty from the College of Charleston. The Riley Center plans to remain an integral part of West Edge for the long term, and you are invited.

The Riley Center engages stakeholders far and wide, including the *Leading Resilient Communities* conference, cohosted with the Government Finance Officials Association (GFOA). More than 70 participants from around the country attended the conference in late June. Ongoing work with the South Carolina City and County Administrators (SCCCMA) and Local Government Leadership Institute continue our efforts to build the capacity of local government leaders to ensure livable places near and far.

The response to the *YOUth Count* has been impressive, with more than 135 volunteers supporting the efforts to understand the scope and nature of food and housing insecurity among young people in Charleston. YOUth Count volunteers distributed more than 500 care kits and spent more than 300 hours canvassing the streets, fields and woods of Charleston looking for young people experiencing homelessness. Reports summarizing the results will be released in the fall of 2018, but the transformation felt by so many volunteers is a key achievement and reason for engagement. A Riley Center/YOUth Count volunteer and a recent graduate reports, “*I will be forever changed by the experiences I’ve had being a part of such an amazing organization that values unconditional regard for human life so deeply.*”

Our new home is a building block for livable communities as it serves as a place to convene, collaborate, solve problems and leverage assets in an interdisciplinary and boundary-breaking style. As you read through this report, I hope you will see the many different levels and types of activities the Riley Center pursues to engage students, faculty, staff and community partners here in Charleston and around the country.

**Kendra B. Stewart, Ph.D.**

Director, Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Center for Livable Communities  
College of Charleston



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# OUR WORK

The Riley Center offers a variety of professional services tailored to fit the needs of those who we serve, including:

- Strategic planning, program evaluation and policy analysis;
- Leadership training and coaching;
- Meeting and focus group facilitation;
- Board training and team development;
- Grant writing and research support;
- Surveys, data collection and data analysis;
- Faculty research support.

## Local Government Leadership Institute (LGLI)

In collaboration with Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University and the Lake City Partnership, the Riley Center developed and is implementing a program to train and develop local government leaders. Launched in September 2016, **seven** sessions were held during the past fiscal year. There were **30** participants and all but two attended each of the seven sessions. **Three** surveys were administered during the various sessions and **100 percent** of respondents rated the content as "very good" or "excellent" on a five-point scale.

Participant comments include:

*"Looking forward to recommending this program to colleagues."*

*"Very practical and instantly beneficial information."*

*"An excellent opportunity for local government leaders to learn, collaborate, and network."*

The LGLI is generously underwritten by the Darla Moore Foundation.

## South Carolina Clerks to Council Association

The Riley Center administers programs for the Clerks to Council Association, which had a very successful year in 2017-18. One meeting was convened in February 2018 in Myrtle Beach with **28** attendees. **Eighteen** participants responded to the satisfaction survey, of which **71 percent** rated the meeting as "excellent" and **29 percent** rated it "very good." Participant comments include:

*"One of the best meetings yet."*

*"I felt like it was very valuable and important for me to be there."*

## Leading Resilient Communities

Led by Riley Center Fellow Bob O'Neill and co-hosted by the Riley Center and the Government Finance Officials Association (GFOA), this two-day workshop held in Charleston in late June 2018 drew about **75** mayors, resiliency officers, budget officers and CFOs from all over the country. Former Charleston Mayor, Joseph P. Riley, Jr. led off the conference talking about what resiliency means and why it matters. Other key topics included training on GFOA's Financial Sustainability Framework, implementing it into the community, and a series of case studies highlighting communities like Hampton Roads, Virginia, Palo Alto, California and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Satisfaction with the conference was very high and, as a result, future plans are being developed to strengthen the Riley Center's partnership with GFOA in 2018-19.



### South Carolina City and County Management Association

The Riley Center manages all professional development and other activities for the South Carolina City and County Management Association (SCCCMA). In fiscal 2017-18 year, we successfully executed two major conferences with 110 attendees at the Kiawah Island gathering in January 2018, and 95 participating in Hilton Head, SC June 2018. The learning at these conferences is important to local leaders as they attest with very high satisfaction scores.

Another measure that illustrates the growth of this association is that in 2015 approximately \$30,000 was raised in conference sponsorships, while in 2018 sponsorships had grown to \$100,000. This revenue increase allows for more money to be budgeted for speakers and other programmatic enhancements. Comments include:

*“Outstanding job.”*

*“Extremely informative and insightful.”*



For more information about SCCCMA see their website at <http://icma.org/en/sc/home>.

## SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANTS PROJECT: OUR COASTAL FUTURE FORUM



**What can we do about climate change?**

**How much of this frightening weather is bad luck or are strong storms every fall a part of our future?**

**Is sea level rise for real or just an exaggeration of the environmental doom and gloom crowd?**

The questions listed above were among the themes of the in-depth learning and deliberative discussion held on October 20-21, 2017 at the Trident Technical College Main Conference Center. Led by Susan Lovelace of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, Matt Nowlin of the College of Charleston and Justin Reedy from the University of Oklahoma, about 100 residents of South Carolina’s coast came together to learn, discuss and deliberate on climate and environmental related topics.

One key objective of the event was to “assess the effectiveness of small group engagement of residents, local and state natural resource decision-makers in deliberating on current issues in coastal planning and management.” A second objective was to: “prioritize issues and tasks associated with climate change resilience, including biodiversity, living marine resources, environmental health and mineral and energy resources in an inclusive process.”

Riley Center leaders Kendra Stewart and Bob Kahle served as facilitators of small group discussions during the Forum. The Riley Center also supported College of Charleston Assistant Professor Matt Nowlin to conduct a series of polls at national and statewide levels, as well as for residents living on the South Carolina coast. As part of these surveys residents could volunteer to be part of the live two-day event.

## OUR WORK: LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS 2017-2018

### **Leadership and the Changing Landscape of Local Government: An Interactive Workshop**

Local Government has never been more important. The issues that matter most in the United States require local government to perform at the highest level. Managers are increasingly catalysts for getting things done. They must work through highly complex multi-sector strategies. This environment requires new leadership skills for both the manager and the senior staff. This session explored the changing landscape of local government and the leadership attributes required to be successful. **Eighteen** people attended from around South Carolina, including administrators, human resources directors and risk managers.

Of those in attendance, **86 percent** rated the workshop as "excellent" or "very good" and **86 percent** would recommend the workshop to a colleague. Participant comments include:

*"Bob [O'Neill] did a fantastic job."*

*"I really enjoyed the new facilities."*

*"Great seminar. Really enjoyed it."*



### **Strategies for Managing and Measuring Residential Short-Term Rentals**

This workshop provided practical strategies, as well as a theoretical framework on housing and residential short-term rentals. Participants had the opportunity to receive training on the following topics:

Self-Assessment, An Evaluation of my Jurisdiction's Housing Mix; An Evaluation of my Jurisdiction and the Greater Market Area; Creating a Fact-Base on Housing; Licensing, Permitting and Regulating Locally; Compliance; Ordinance Development; Renting Responsibly; An Agent for Change.

There were **35** attendees, mainly based in South Carolina working in zoning, planning, business licensing and various administrator positions. Out of the attendees, **89 percent** rated the workshop as "excellent" or "very good" and **100 percent** of participants were likely to recommend it to a colleague.

*"The Riley Center is a great addition to the Charleston area. It's a great environment."*

### **Short-Term Rental (STR) Helper Implementation**

Led by Faculty fellow Brumby McCleod, this workshop was for municipalities currently implementing or considering the adoption of the STR Helper software system for managing nightly rentals. The invited participants are staff from Charleston county municipalities. There were **12** participants from Charleston County, mainly those in leadership roles that could take their knowledge back to their staff.

## FEEDING THE CAROLINAS: A NEW STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

The South Carolina Food Bank Association and the North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks announced the formation of a strategic alliance culminating in a new association called Feeding the Carolinas. The Riley Center facilitated the negotiations that led to this strategic alliance and that included a series of six sessions with the CEOs of the food banks in both states. After rigorous review of the feasibility and potential benefits of the strategic alliance was completed, the decision was made to form the new association. As part of the process, new bylaws have been put into place, a new Executive Director was recruited and new board officers have been elected.

A kick-off event was held on December 15, 2017 at Rick Hendrick Motorsports in Charlotte, North Carolina. A total of **\$105,000** was donated at the kickoff event with contributions from Assurant, Publix, Target, Family Dollar, GMRA, Food Lion Feeds, Harris Teeter, Duke Energy, and the Hendrick Automotive Group.

The primary benefit of Feeding the Carolinas is that more people will be provided with better food across the **two** states. Efficiencies in sourcing more and better produce, as well as sharing resources like the large commercial kitchen of the Lowcountry Food Bank, can now be realized. Additionally, other benefits anticipated include: reduced waste; enhanced buying power with better pricing; joint fundraising opportunities; and, more effective local, state and federal lobbying on behalf of hungry Carolinians.

To ensure these benefits are realized, the Riley Center and the Lowcountry Food Bank co-hosted, facilitated and reported on the proceedings of a multi-day strategic planning retreat held in October 2017 at the Riley Center to set the course for Feeding the Carolinas during the next three to five years. Two states, **one** team!

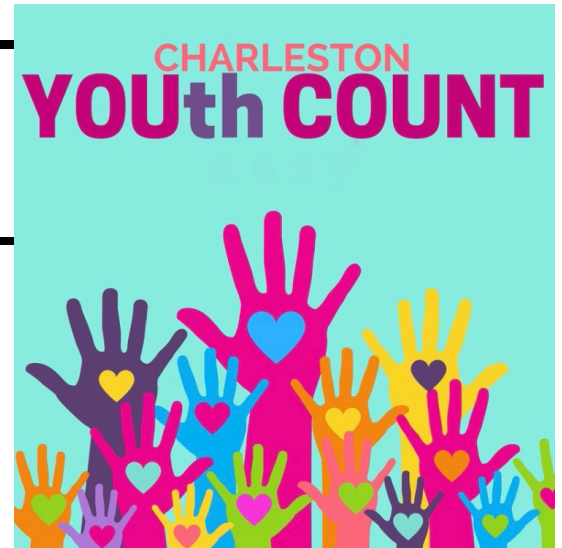


## CHARLESTON YOUTH COUNT: A RILEY CENTER INITIATIVE

The Charleston YOUTH Count is an initiative of the Riley Center and key community partners to count and understand the needs and assets of people under age 25 who are housing and/or food insecure. By documenting the size of this vulnerable population and scoping the nature of the services they need, it is anticipated that local, state and national service providers will be better informed to act on their behalf. The Riley Center completed an initial survey of College of Charleston students to understand their nutrition and housing needs. More than 2,000 students responded to the 70-question, online survey. Student responses were encouraged during high-visibility CougarPalooza and Cougar Countdown events.

Findings suggest that 30 percent of students are food insecure with half of that segment being very food insecure. These students, estimated at more than 1,500, are neither eating enough to be healthy nor getting enough nutrition to maximize their academic performance.

Thirty percent of the student population report being housing insecure. For most of these, the housing insecurity stems from missing a rent payment or fear they will miss a payment as a result of increased housing costs.



A task force was formed by the Executive Vice President of Student Affairs to help address the concerns uncovered and documented in this report. The Riley Center plans to continue to use data to drive action from students, faculty, staff and administrators to ensure all students have access to the food and housing they need. Phase two of the YOUTH Count consisted of street canvassing looking for any individual 25 or younger living on the streets of Charleston County. Trained teams of interviewers and outreach workers scoured both urban and rural areas of the county and ultimately collected in-depth interviews with 62 young people who are experiencing homelessness.

In total, 135 volunteers worked on the YOUTH Count, about half of these were College of Charleston students. More than 50 completed the rigorous training allowing them to be prepared to work in the field. Others packed care kits and served as field support, entered data and a variety of other needed tasks. In addition to the data collection more than 500 care kits, including food, personal care items and lists of resources were provided. In the fall of 2018 reports summarizing the findings will be released and YOUTH Count leaders will continue to advocate to bring more resources to one of Charleston's most marginalized groups.

## OUR WORK: LIVABLE COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017-2018

### **Food Systems Innovation Project:**

The Food Systems Innovation Project is a multi-agency collaborative directed by Dr. Olivia M. Thompson of the College of Charleston with grant funding provided by The Boeing Company. The Initiative began in 2012 as a county-level farm-to-school program and has since become a statewide effort to increase access to healthful, local foods among food insecure youth in particular. Existing strategies proven to increase local food supply and demand are supported while new strategies are developed, implemented and scaled in consultation with key stakeholders from a number of agencies across the state.



Moreover, Dr. Thompson and her team are currently working to develop state and local policies and procedures to positively change South Carolina's food system indefinitely. For model farm-to-school policy analyses, please see our publication 'State-Level Legislation Regulating Farm-to-School Programs in the United States: An Examination of Enacted, Pending, and Vetoed or Dead Bills' in the Health Education Journal 2014;73(4):394-402. Existing strategies supported by the Project include: providing scholarships for 131 new and beginning farmers to complete Lowcountry Local First's (LLF) 6-month Growing New Farmers Apprenticeship Program and providing funding to the Lowcountry Food Bank to enable 117 families to participate in the Cooking Matters© 6-week cooking course and 218 families to participate in the Cooking Matters© grocery store tours program.

The Apprenticeship Program is now fully sustained as a joint effort between LLF and the College of Charleston's Job Bridge Program. Cooking Matters© programming has been adopted by organizations implementing nutrition education throughout the state. New strategies created by the project include constructing and opening two commercial farm kitchens, creating a comprehensive school gardening program for educators which includes installing physical gardens on school grounds, and creating a skills-based culinary training program for school food service professionals with an accompanying school nutrition recipe database.

In partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension, where Amy L. Dabbs is the Program Lead, we have trained 463 teachers across 147 schools and community centers within South Carolina to implement and sustain school-based gardens. Grant funds were used to develop, host and test our five-week online course, provide scholarships for participating teachers, purchase school gardens and garden kits and evaluate the overall program.

Grant funds were also used to develop and publish The Garden STEM: K-8 Curriculum for Your Garden Classroom along with two planting guides and seasonal calendars (available for purchase through major online retailers). South Carolina educators use the curriculum and planting guides/seasonal calendars to teach science, technology, engineering and math subject matter in an applied, outdoor setting before, during and after school hours. For information about the impact of our program 'School Gardening for South Carolina Educators', please see our publication in HortTechnology (2017;27(2):228-234).



We have contracted Chef Miles Huff (retired, Trident Technical College) to create a one-week skills-based culinary training program for school nutrition staff. To date, we have trained 398 staff members across 178 schools and provided on-site technical assistance to 47 schools. Grant funds were used to develop and implement the program, provide scholarships for participating school nutrition staff, purchase knife kits for participants and evaluate the overall program. Grant funds were also used to develop and publish *South Carolina Schools Cook! A Training Manual for School Nutrition Professionals* (available for purchase through major online retailers) along with an online database housing over 200 chef-created, kid-tested recipes that incorporate local foods and meet or exceed U.S.D.A. standards for school meals ([www.schoolnutritionrecipes.org](http://www.schoolnutritionrecipes.org)). For information about the economic benefits of sourcing local foods for use in school meals, please see our publication in the *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition* (2015;10(4):526-538). For information about how to track local foods purchasing in schools, please see our publication in the *Journal of Nutrition and Human Health* (2017;1(2):1-8).



In partnership with the Clemson Architecture Center in Charleston, led by David A. Pastre and Harry J. Crissy, we have designed and built two small-scale commercial kitchens – Crop Stop Farm Kitchens. The first kitchen is located in Johns Island and managed by Sweetgrass Garden Cooperative and the second kitchen is located in Greenville and managed by Mill Village Farms. Grant funds were used to pay for construction materials, kitchen appliances, and food safety trainings for patrons. For information about the “emerging school market” for small or low-resource farmers, please see our publication in the *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition* (2014;9(1):33-47).

This program is sustainable! Crop Stop Farm Kitchens are managed by area non-profits with missions to support underserved populations. Patrons who use the kitchens pay a nominal use fee (\$10-\$15 per hour), which is used to support kitchen operations. The constructed kitchens are prototypes that underwent extensive field-based testing. New construction documents have been developed using testing data and are now approved for use throughout the entire country.

# OUR TEAM

The Riley Center operates with a small team of full time employees, undergraduate and graduate students. We supplement our core team with faculty and staff from other areas of the College. Other seasoned professionals are Riley Center Fellows who assist with various projects and grants. The work of the Riley Center is inspired each day by the legacy, exemplary leadership and continuing counsel of former Mayor Joe Riley.



**Kendra B. Stewart,**  
Ph.D

Professor of Political  
Science and Center  
Director

Kendra B. Stewart is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. She is currently serving at the Senior Advisor to the Interim President at the College. Her research interests include South Carolina government, non-profit management, state and local government, food policy, and women and politics.

She is co-editor of a book entitled *The Practice of Government Public Relations*. The articles she has authored have appeared in "The Practice of Strategic Collaboration: From Silos to Actions," "Urban Affairs Review," "Public Finance and Management," "Perspective in Politics," and various scholarly books.

Dr. Stewart is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), an independent, nonprofit, and non-partisan organization chartered by Congress to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. She was also elected to serve as President of the *American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)* for 2020-2021. Kendra has conducted political analysis for a variety of print, radio and television media, including Good Morning America, Fox News Channel, the Associated Press, The New Yorker, and National Public Radio.

Prior to her current position, Professor Stewart was a faculty member at Eastern Kentucky University and worked for the state of South Carolina Budget and Control Board. In addition, she has conducted program evaluations and strategic planning assistance to a variety of public and nonprofit organizations. Kendra is very involved in the community as well, serving on the boards of several professional and non-profit organizations.



**Olivia Thompson,**  
Ph.D

Associate Professor of  
Public Health

Dr. Thompson has more than 15 years of experience working at local, state, and federal levels of public health. Dr. Thompson earned her MPH degree in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education from Emory University and her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences with a specialization in Epidemiology and Public Health Policy from the University of Washington. Additionally, she has completed research fellowships at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Thompson currently serves as a public health professor with the College of Charleston, her alma mater, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate public health courses and conducts research in the area of public health systems science.

Prior to her arrival at the College of Charleston, Dr. Thompson worked as a consultant in a government subcontract to the NIH where she directed data analyses of Early Childhood Longitudinal Study and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data to explore the intersection between childhood obesity and hunger; and to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) where she directed all survey operations (i.e., formative research, survey development and fielding, and data analyses and reporting) in leading a national, cross-site evaluation of environmental- and policy-level factors associated with farmers' market manager participation in nutrition assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.



**Robert W. Kahle,**  
Ph.D

Center Asst. Director,  
Director of Research  
and Planning

Dr. Kahle's passion is researching issues affecting vulnerable populations, especially those experiencing homelessness or hunger. In his role at the Riley Center, he designs, implements and supervises research, evaluation and strategic planning for non-profit and local government organizations. He currently serves as the Interim Director of the Riley Center. Current projects include the *YOUth Count*, a multi-dimensional study of youth homelessness, consulting with Feeding The Carolinas, the Georgia Food Bank Association and several individual food banks. Kahle's duties include supporting faculty research, mentoring student researchers and seeking to maximize the resources of the Riley Center for the benefit of the College and broader community. He has become a popular guest lecturer for courses in the social sciences.

Kahle is the author of *Dominators, Cynics and Wallflowers: Practical Strategies for Moderating Meaningful Focus Groups* (Paramount Market Publishing, 2007). He is known nationally as an expert trainer of qualitative research methods through the *American Evaluation Association* and the *Qualitative Research Consultants Association*.

Prior to joining the Riley Center in November 2016, he operated the research and planning consultancy, Kahle Research Solutions, for 23 years. Previously, Bob was the co-founder/co-director of the Urban Safety Program at Wayne State

University's Center for Urban Studies in Detroit, Michigan. He has a background in marketing research working with large corporations like General Motors and nimble technology companies like cars.com. Dr. Kahle received his Doctorate in Sociology from Wayne State University in 1994 and his Bachelors and Masters in Sociology from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.



**Alison Littke Smith,**  
M.P.A.

Director of Community  
Outreach

Alison Littke-Smith graduated with her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Charleston, South Carolina in 2014, and earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the College of Charleston in 2012. She has worked for the Riley Center in various roles since 2010 prior to her current position as Director of Community Outreach. In this role, she works closely with a variety of non-profit and local government organizations, including the SC City and County Management Association, the SC Clerks to Council Organization, the Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute, and the Local Government Leadership Institute. She also works with faculty members to organize workshops on various topics such as leadership, resiliency, short-term rentals, and more. This year, she is involved with the relaunch of the Riley Mayors' Design Fellowship, a program designed to educate mayors and equip them with the tools to envision and implement projects that positively impact their cities and towns.



**Emma Cregg,**  
M.P.A.

Office Manager

Emma Cregg has two bachelor's degrees from Lee University and a Master of Public Administration and Urban and Regional Planning Certificate from the University of Charleston, SC. Prior to joining the Riley Center, she completed a master's thesis research fellowship at the University of Versailles and worked at UNESCO's Paris headquarters. Her research interests include intercultural communication, refugee rehabilitation and policy implementation in local government. Cregg's prior work experience also includes multiple positions at the College of Charleston in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning, Residence Life and Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs.



**Chelsea Diedrich, B.A.**

Graduate Research  
Assistant

Chelsea Diedrich is part of the Master of Public Administration/Master of Environmental Studies (MPA/MES) concurrent degree program at the College of Charleston. She received her bachelor of science in environmental science from UNC Wilmington in 2015 with a minor in geospatial science. Her research interests include sustainable urban development and regional climate change management. Chelsea has supported the Riley Center *YOUth Count* and strategic planning efforts with food banks.



**Rachel Bradley**

Student Assistant

Rachel Bradley is a junior at the College of Charleston pursuing a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in International Studies. As the undergraduate assistant, Rachel assists Dr. Kahle in administrative and research work. Primarily, Rachel has worked with Dr. Kahle and Chelsea Diedrich to provide support to the Charleston Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force through data collection and analysis.

## RILEY CENTER FACULTY FELLOWS 2017-2018

The following College of Charleston faculty worked with the Riley Center during the past year on various projects:

- **Dr. Hollis France** <http://polisci.cofc.edu/about/faculty-staff-listing/france-hollis.php>
- **Dr. Kevin Keenan** <http://polisci.cofc.edu/about/faculty-staff-listing/keenan-kevin.php>
- **Dr. Matt Nowlin** <http://polisci.cofc.edu/about/faculty-staff-listing/nowlin-matthew.php>
- **Dr. Jordan Ragusa** <http://polisci.cofc.edu/about/faculty-staff-listing/ragusa-jordan.php>
- **Dr. Brumby McCleod** [http://sb.cofc.edu/academics/academicdepartments/hospitality\\_tourism/facultyandstaff/mcleod-brumby.php](http://sb.cofc.edu/academics/academicdepartments/hospitality_tourism/facultyandstaff/mcleod-brumby.php)
- **Dr. Jen Wright** <http://psychology.cofc.edu/about/faculty-and-staff/wright-jennifer.php>

**Riley Center Fellows have distinguished careers, offer perspectives and insights on local governmental issues and assist the Riley Center by providing expertise on various issues and projects. Their network of contacts is instrumental in connecting the Riley Center with various local and state government associations and leaders.**



**Robert O'Neill, M.P.A.**

Robert (Bob) O'Neill is the Senior Vice President of Public Finance of Davenport & Company where he works with local governments on issues of finance, strategic leadership and management. Mr. O'Neill also is an adjunct professor in the Center for Regional Excellence at Old Dominion University. He is the former executive director of the *International City/County Management Association (ICMA)*, which advances professional local government worldwide, and also served as president of the *National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)*. He held a temporary assignment at the Office of Management and Budget as counselor to the director and deputy director on management issues. Mr. O'Neill earned his B.S. in political science from Old Dominion University and his M.P.A. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Administration, Syracuse University. He completed the Executive Program at Colgate Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, and holds an honorary doctorate of laws from Old Dominion University.



**Jon B. Pierce, Ph.D.**

Jon B. Pierce has worked with state, local and non-profit agencies across the Southeast for more than 35 years as a university-based facilitator, consultant and trainer. Dr. Pierce has assisted a large number of organizations in the design and conduct of strategic planning and goal-setting efforts. He is recognized as an authority on state and local government in South Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science with a concentration in public administration from the University of Tennessee and Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science from Appalachian State University. Dr. Pierce retired from full-time service as the Director of Governmental Services for the University of South Carolina's Institute for Public Service and Policy Research. He was a Research Associate Professor and taught in the joint MPA programs at USC, Clemson and the College of Charleston. He previously has served as Director of the Governmental Services Institute and the Office of Professional Development and Community Education of Northern Kentucky University, and as Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Bureau of Government at Appalachian State University.



**William E. Tomes, M.A.**

Bill Tomes is a Fellow at the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and is the former Director of Governmental Research and Service at the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research at the University of South Carolina. Through his consulting firm, Bill works with public and non-profit organizations in South Carolina. Bill has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Human Resources. During the past 30 years, he has worked as an organizational development consultant specializing in both the private and public sectors in the United States and Canada. He has conducted training programs and written book chapters and articles on various human resource and governance topics. Bill currently serves on the faculty of the Local Government Leadership Institute, the Non-Profit Leadership Institute at Francis Marion University, and the Institute of Government for County Officials.

## JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR. EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE

Former Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. worked with the Riley Center by speaking to classes, meeting with students and faculty, and giving talks on behalf of the Center to local governments and nonprofits. He also has donated his personal and political papers and memorabilia to the College to archive and make available to the public. For many years and continuing into 2017-18, former Mayor Riley led the fundraising team from the International African-American Museum to surpass their initial goal of \$75 million. Ground breaking is expected early in 2019. Mayor Riley is widely considered one of the most visionary and highly effective governmental leaders in America.



First elected Mayor in December 1975, Mayor Riley completed an unprecedented ten terms in January 2016. Under his leadership, Charleston has increased its commitment to racial harmony and progress, achieved a substantial decrease in crime, experienced a remarkable revitalization of its historic downtown business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S.A., built the beautiful Waterfront Park, developed nationally-acclaimed affordable housing, and experienced unprecedented growth in Charleston's size and population.

Former Mayor Riley led a city government with an impressive record of innovation in public safety, housing, arts and culture, children's issues, the creation of park and other public spaces, and economic revitalization and development. The City of Charleston is recognized as one of the most livable and progressive cities in the United States. The College of Charleston's Riley Center is proud to have had Joseph P. Riley Jr. serve as the 2017-18 Executive in Residence.

# THE RILEY CENTER'S NEW LOCATION

176 LOCKWOOD BLVD.  
CHARLESTON, SC 29403



In the Spring of 2018, the Riley Center cut the ribbon at 176 Lockwood Boulevard signaling the dedication of this new West Edge anchor. Our new offices are configured to encourage collaboration, leverage technology and feature meeting spaces that allow us to host various coalitions, forums and partners as we work towards the betterment of our community.



COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

at WestEdge

Controller's Office

Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities

Procurement and Supply Services